

# A Pastor's Perspective



## March 6, 2022 Bulletin

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

At various points throughout the coronavirus pandemic, we all experienced firsthand how many families/households were spending more time at home. In some ways, this time was a desert experience of isolation and barrenness, an event of spiritual and/or emotional suffering and death.

However, this “unanticipated gift of time” inspired many families to clean up and clear out their cupboards and closets, their attics and basements, their garages and storage sheds. They set out to declutter and to reorganize their lives, beginning with the stuff they use and don’t use, the stuff they forgot they had, the stuff they could do without, and the stuff which could be donated, repurposed, or simply thrown away. It also allowed for repairs and even renovations to be made. All this activity reminded me of the semiannual “grand manage” (the big cleaning) that my mother would do every spring and fall (when he retired, my father would help her as well). It didn’t last 40 days, but for a young boy, it did seem to take a long time and required some sacrifices as we took up the task of doing extra “chores” or “duties”.

In imitation of Christ’s forty days in the desert, the Church invites us to undertake a “grand manage” during Lent—a time of spiritual spring cleaning. It is a great time to declutter our lives, not only getting rid of those things that we don’t really need and weigh us down, but also those things that are harmful to our soul and our relationship to Christ and his Church. It is a great time to reorganize our priorities, making room for the truly important things in life: by going to Mass, reflecting on the Word of God, dedicating a bit more time to personal prayer, and reaching out in compassionate service to our brothers and sisters in need. It is an excellent opportunity for us to repair our relationship, by experiencing reconciliation with the Lord and his Church and renewing those bonds of family and friendship with those from whom we have been alienated and estranged.

The ultimate virus (almost sounds like the word “vice” doesn’t it) is sin because it robs of us spiritual health, even eternal life. Lent is Christ’s gift to us to be healed, to be made holy, and to prepare ourselves for heaven once again.

Peace and blessings,  
Msgr. Andrew